

## Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-03 L-02 H-01 EB-07 SP-02

NSC-05 PRS-01 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /055 W

----- 010239

R 221350Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4135

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

SECDEF WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

CINCSOUTH

USAFSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, EAIR, EC

SUBJECT: USAF ESTABLISHMENT OF AIR SERVICE TO QUITO, BOGOTA,  
AND SANTO DOMINGO UNDER INTER-AMERICAN MILITARY AIR TRANSPORT  
SERVICE (CAMI)

REF: A) USAFSO 111935Z DEC 74

B) BOGOTA 11245 DEC 23, 1974

1. EMBASSY QUITO RECEIVED REF A, TO WHICH EMBASSY BOGOTA  
RAISED OBJECTIONS, AND WE HAD THE SAME INITIAL REACTION. UPON  
FURTHER DIGGING, WE GATHER THAT THE PROPOSED AIR SERVICES  
WHICH USAF WOULD RUN BETWEEN PANAMA, QUITO, BOGOTA AND SANTO  
DOMINGO, ARE PART OF A MUCH LARGER SCHEME WHICH HAS BEEN THE  
SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN US AND LATIN AMERICAN AIR  
FORCES OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS. WE GATHER THAT, AT LEAST IN  
THE CASE OF ECUADOR, A WRITTEN AGREEMENT MAY EXIST BETWEEN  
THE USAF AND THE ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE (FAE).

2. THE PROPOSED BENEFICIARIES ARE QUOTE ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY  
PERSONNEL AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF LATIN AMERICAN AIR  
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FORCES TRAVELING ON BUSINESS OR LEAVE; DEPENDENTS OF

LATIN AMERICAN AIR FORCE PERSONNEL TRAVELING BETWEEN HOME COUNTRY AND COUNTRY OF ASSIGNMENT WHEN SUCH TRAVEL IS FOR CHANGE OF DUTY STATION, MEDICAL TREATMENT, OR FAMILY EMERGENCIES; DIGNITARIES OF ONE COUNTRY INVITED BY LATIN AMERICAN AIR FORCES OF ANOTHER COUNTRY FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO, OR ORIENTATION OF, HOST COUNTRY AIR FORCE ACTIVITY; OFFICIAL CARGO AND MAIL OF A LATIN AMERICAN AIR FORCE; HOUSEHOLD GOODS TO AND FROM HOME COUNTRY AND COUNTRY OF ASSIGNMENT (FOR LATIN AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL) AT A TIME OF A CHANGE IN DUTY STATION, ET SEQ. END QUOTE.

3. ON THE FACE OF IT, WE ARE SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL OF THE WISDOM OF BEGINNING WHAT WILL APPEAR TO SOME AS COMPETITION WITH COMMERCIAL CARRIERS. IN THE CONTEXT OF PRESENT US-ECUADOREAN RELATIONS, WE DO NOT THINK IT WOULD NECESSARILY BE HELPFUL TO HAVE THE HIGHLY VISIBLE PRESENCE OF USAF AIRCRAFT LOADING PASSENGERS AND CARGO (ECUADOREAN AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN) AT QUITO AIRPORT AND FLYING OVER TOWN (WHICH IS UNAVOIDABLE). WE HAVE, IN ADDITION, JUST GOTTEN THROUGH A VERY DIFFICULT CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATION WHICH HAS LEFT A NUMBER OF ISSUES OUTSTANDING, AND AT ONE POINT THREATENED THE SEVERE CURTAILMENT OF BRANIFF'S OPERATIONS INTO ECUADOR. ECUADOR'S FLAG CARRIER, ECUATORIANA, HAS JUST RENEWED INTERNATIONAL SERVICES, INCLUDING BETWEEN QUITO AND BOGOTA, AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY LOOK UPON THE PROPOSED USAF SERVICE AS UNWANTED COMPETITION -- NO MATTER HOW INFREQUENTLY IT FLEW, NOR HOW FEW PASSENGERS AND HOW LITTLE CARGO. AND SINCE THE MANAGEMENT OF ECUATORIANA, THE ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE, AND THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES TO A LARGE EXTENT OVERLAP (ALL BEING ESSENTIALLY RUN BY ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE OFFICERS), THERE WOULD BE NO WAY TO PREVENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE USAF FLIGHTS BECOMING WIDESPREAD.

4. BEFORE GIVING OUR CLEARANCE FOR THIS PROJECT TO GO AHEAD, EMBASSY WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR MORE BACKGROUND WE WOULD SPECIFICALLY LIKE TO KNOW WHAT AGREEMENTS EXIST BETWEEN THE USAF AND ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THESE FLIGHTS; WHAT THE NATURE OF THE AGREEMENT WAS THAT SET UP WHAT WE UNDERSTAND TO BE A "SECRETARIAT" OF THE CAMI IN BOGOTA; AND WHETHER THIS PROGRAM, WHICH SEEMS TO US TO HAVE A NUMBER OF POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS, WAS FULLY COORDINATED AT POLICY LEVELS IN WASHINGTON. HEMENWAY

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## Message Attributes

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